

# PADUCAH KENTUCKY FLOTILLA 8-7

## HISTORY



Flotilla 8-7 received its **United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Charter** as **The Lake Barkley Flotilla** in October of 1997.

The creation of Flotilla 8-7 resulted from a Rotary Club speaking engagement by Shirley T. Johnson, a member of Flotilla 8-5, **The Kentucky Lake Flotilla**. Interest created from the Rotary Club encounter caused a Coast Guard Auxiliary 13 lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship class to be scheduled and attended by several students from the Lake Barkley area @ Kuttawa, KY to Canton, KY to Cadiz, KY. These students generated the drive that resulted in the creation of Flotilla 8-7. Instrumental in this effort were future members Dr. Thornton E. Bryan, JR., Thomas M. George, Gerald D. Turley, Billy Dawson, and Robert L. Lewis. These individuals initially became members of Flotilla 8-5 and with the assistance of Flotilla 8-5 created an interest in the area near Lake Barkley to generate more than enough members to establish **Flotilla 8-7, The Lake Barkley Flotilla**.

The Flotilla Charter was signed by **Rear Admiral Timothy W. Josiah, United States Coast Guard, Commander Coast Guard District Eight** and presented by **Commander P. L. Stephenson, United States Coast Guard, Director of Auxiliary Eighth Eastern Auxiliary Region** in a Flotilla Chartering Ceremony at The Lake Barkley State Park Lodge on 25 October 1997. Also present at the Chartering Ceremony were: **Commodore Gordon W. Scholz, , United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Eighth Eastern Auxiliary Region Commodore, Commodore Jerry VanHeltebrake, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Staff Officer** along with more than 70 other guests. Guests included individuals from the local Paducah Coast Guard Unit, various Coast Guard Auxiliary Division and Flotilla officers and members and was covered by local TV and Radio stations. At the time of the Chartering Ceremony Flotilla 8-7 had 19 charter members. The Charter Members of Flotilla 8-7 are: Dr. Thornton E, Bryan, JR., D. Gayle White, Joseph L. Fabian, Thomas M. George, Kathy E. Dietrich, Caryl K. Fabian, Francis Rieber, Leota F. Logan, Patricia H. Finney, Gerald D. Turley, Bennie J. Logan, John P. Finney, Robert L. Lewis, Ann E. Williamson, Carol A. Turley, Henry S. White, Elsie Vinson, Dannye J. Wagner and Billy Dawson.

From the time of chartering the members of Flotilla 8-7 have constantly demonstrated their ability to enthusiastically support the Coast Guard and the boating public along with general public activities. This reflects the great caliber of the flotilla members from its

chartering to the present day membership.

One member that truly showed this was **Charter Member Francis Reiber**. Fran as he was known to friends started his Auxiliary membership in the St. Louis, MO. area before moving to his home in the Canton, KY area, where he joined Flotilla 8-7. Fran's easy going and capable ability showed brightly in his Auxiliary efforts. One memorable moment for Fran and Flotilla 8-7 occurred in 2001. **Rear Admiral Roy J. Casto, United States Coast Guard, Commander Coast Guard District Eight** visited **Marine Safety Office Paducah, KY** and during that visit recognized Fran's commitment to The Coast Guard Auxiliary by presenting him with a special commemorative coin in recognition of his 40 years of dedicated service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

In 2017 **The Lake Barkley Flotilla** moved its principal location from Cadiz, KY to Paducah, KY and changed its name to **The Paducah Flotilla**. This move and change was necessitated by the needs of the Flotilla membership as well as the Auxiliary in general in the area.

From the time of Flotilla 8-7's chartering to the present day, Flotilla 8-7 members have been involved in all aspects of Auxiliary programs and affairs. Flotilla members have qualified as Boat Crewman & Coxswains, Instructors, Vessel Examiners, Marine Dealer Visitors, Navigation Aids Verifiers and served in Flotilla, Division, District and National offices. Flotilla 8-7 members have also provided countless hours of volunteer support to the local Coast Guard Unit in Paducah, KY in normal as well as urgent times. Additionally Flotilla 8-7 was instrumental in chartering a new Flotilla in the Kuttawa, KY area, Flotilla 8-11. The future of "**The Paducah Kentucky Flotilla**" looks bright.

Dated: 07 March 2022, Commodore Clemmet J Paddock, PDCO 8ER, Member - Flotilla 8-7

